

of the evidence presented to it. Basing itself entirely on this evidence, the Commission believes that it would not be wrong to consider that violations of Articles 4 and 6 of the Protocol to the Declaration on the Neutrality of Laos signed at Geneva on 23 July 1962 have occurred."

A perusal of the evidence presented to the Commission by the North Vietnamese prisoners themselves and by other witnesses, makes it clear not only that violations of Articles 4 and 6 of the 1962 Protocol have occurred, but that North Vietnam has also violated clauses (a), (b), (c), (g) and (j) of Article 2 of the Declaration; the Commission, however, relates its findings only to the provisions of the Protocol to the Declaration.

Paragraph 17 of the Commission's message indicates that "for reasons beyond the team's control, neither the team nor the Commission was permitted to verify and authenticate in a legalistic manner the evidence provided by the three prisoners and by the other witnesses."

It goes on in this connection to remind the Co-Chairman that in a previous message of January 21, 1965, (concerning a violation of the Cease Fire provisions of the 1962 Protocol by the Communist Neo Lao Haksat Forces) the Commission has commented that

"... because the Neo Lao Haksat (the Communist faction in Laos) refuses to extend the appropriate facilities to the Commission under the Protocol, the Commission finds